

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/006,356

Examiner

George Eng

Applicant(s)

BOZORGUI-NESBAT, SAIED

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


GEORGE ENG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert S. Babayi (Reg. No. 33,471) on 10/7/2004.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 22-28.

1. (Currently amended) A keypad for entering letters, comprising:

an array of keys with each key being assigned to at least one letter of an alphabetical system based on the frequency occurrence of the at least one letter in a typical body of written work, wherein the alphabetical system comprises at least one most-frequently-occurring letter that is entered by more than one key activation associated with the same key and at least one less-frequently-occurring letter that is entered by at least one key activation with each of at least two different keys.

19. (Currently amended) An information entry method for a keypad, comprising:

(a) determining the frequency of occurrences of letters in a typical body of written work that is based on an alphabetical system;

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(b) assigning letters to an array of keys based on the frequency of occurrence of the letters;

(c) activating at least one of the keys in accordance with a key sequence that correspond to a selected letter, wherein for a most-frequently-occurring letter, the key sequence requires multiple activation of the same key, and for a less-frequently-occurring letter, the key sequence requires activation of two different keys; and

(d) generating a character signal corresponding to the selected letter in response to the key sequence.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1-21 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's invention is drawn to a method and apparatus for alphanumeric data entry using a keypad that is convenient in use, while increasing the speed by which text data is entered into a keypad (i.e., the keypad for entering letters including an array of keys with each key being assigned at least one letter of an alphabetical system based on the frequency occurrence of at least one letter in a typical body of written work so that the entry of the most-frequency-occurring letter is entered by more than one activation of the same key and the entry of the less-frequency-occurring letter is entered by activation a key assigned to the less-frequently-occurring letter and than activating another key to which the position element of the less-frequently-occurring letter points to).

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Applicant's independent claims 1 and 11 each recite, *inter alia*, a keypad with a specific structure as defined in the specification for entering letters comprising an array of keys with each key being assigned to at least one letter of an alphabetical system based on the frequency occurrence of the at least one letter in a typical body of written work, wherein the alphabetical system comprises at least one most-frequently-occurring letter that is entered by more than one key activation associated with the same key and at least one less-frequently-occurring letter that is entered by at least one key activation with each of at least two different keys. Applicant's independent claims 1 and 11 comprise a particular combination of element, which is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Application independent method claim 19 recites, *inter alia*, assigning letters to an array of keys based on the frequency of occurrence of the letter, activating at least one of the keys in accordance with a key sequence that correspond to a selected letter, wherein for a most-frequently-occurring letter, the key sequence requires multiple activation of the same key, and for a less-frequently-occurring letter, the key sequence requires activation of two different keys. These steps, in combination of the remaining steps, are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant's invention is allowed for these reasons and the reasons recited by Applicant in Amendments and Appeal Brief.

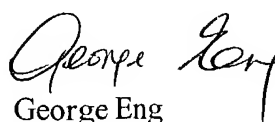
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is 703-308-9555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri 7:30 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A. Kuntz can be reached on 703-305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



George Eng
Primary Examiner
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